

TULLA UNION.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 29 March 1851—*per*,

COPIES "of CORRESPONDENCE between the *Tulla* BOARD of GUARDIANS and the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS; and of REPORTS from the ARCHITECT and his ASSISTANTS to the COMMISSIONERS, in reference to the New Workhouse now in Construction at *Tulla*."

(*Sir Lucius O'Brien.*)

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, }
26 April 1852.

W. STANLEY,
Secretary.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 3 May 1852.

COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE between the BOARD of GUARDIANS of *Tulla* Union and the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS; and of REPORTS from the ARCHITECT and his ASSISTANTS to the COMMISSIONERS, in reference to the New Workhouse now in Construction at *Tulla*.

— No. 1. —

(No. 34,909/50.)

COPY LETTER from Mr. *Wilkinson* to the Poor Law Commissioners:
dated 18th June 1850.

The following are the tenders referred to me by your Board for the erection of the *Tulla* poorhouse. I return the documents herewith.

John Connolly	-	-	-	£. 5,712	
A. Williams & Sons	-	-	-	5,400	- - 16 months.
W. & W. Doolin	-	-	-	4,720	
D. Crowe & Sons	-	-	-	5,000	- - 18 months
W. Burgess & Sons	-	-	-	4,800	- - 16 "
Jno. Hanly	-	-	-	5,000	- - 18 "
McNamara & Son	-	-	-	4,950	- - 18 "
Maclean & Duggan	-	-	-	4,900	1. 2.

I beg to recommend the tender of Messrs. Doolin, and that a period of 16 months be allowed for the execution of the work.

— No. 2. —

(No. 325,57/50.)

COPY LETTER from Mr. *Wilkinson* to the Poor Law Commissioners:
dated 16th September 1850.

In reply to your letter of the 12th September respecting the *Tulla* Workhouse, I have to express my opinion that it will be better, under the circumstances, to defer the commencement of the works till spring, rather than
begin

begin these at the winter months. Since it appears that they cannot go on at the present time, I would advise that the contractor is informed that it is desirable he should make every preparation during the winter for the speedy execution of the building, as soon as the building season of next year admits.

— No. 3. —

(No. 55,059/50.)

COPY LETTER from the Architect's Assistant to the Commissioners;
dated 19th September 1850.

In reference to your letter of the 18th September, relative to the period for the completion of the works that should be stated in the contract for the erection of the Tulla Union Workhouse, I beg to recommend that 16 months (as mentioned in the report on the tenders) from the date of the contract be the time to be named therein.

— No. 4. —

(No. 60,511/50.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, of 28th October 1850.

THE Board determine that they would make every exertion to provide in-door accommodation, so as to guard against the necessity of giving out-door relief; and as this important object requires that no time should be lost in erecting the new workhouse, they would press upon the Commissioners the expediency of accelerating the building thereof; but they would prefer a site for it in immediate connexion with the buildings now at Garuragh, to a site distant from them, as our outlay on those premises has been very considerable, and they would be saved expense in the staff necessary for the two establishments.

The following resolution was proposed by H. Spaight, Esq., and seconded by J. Singleton, Esq., and, on a poll, was approved by a majority of the Board.

Resolved—That in consequence of the determination of this Board not to recur to the unions' system of out-door relief, we call upon the Commissioners to expedite as much as possible the building of the parant workhouse at Garuragh, as, all circumstances taken into consideration, that step seems most desirable.

(signed) *H. Spaight.*

— No. 5. —

(No. 60,511/50.)

COPY LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Clerk of Tulla Union;
dated 8th November 1850.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union, on the 28th ultimo, containing a report from the chairman on the subject of in-door accommodation, and suggesting certain alterations in the premises at Garuragh, and that the permanent workhouse should be built on land adjoining that workhouse, and in reference thereto, I am to state that the Commissioners see no objection to the proposed additions to the workhouse at Garuragh; and in regard to the proposal again to change the site of the workhouse, they will communicate with the guardians again.

It is right, however, to observe, that the negotiation for the site approved of by the guardians in August last has, after some difficulty, been closed, and the deed of conveyance is now in course of preparation.

— No. 6. —

(No. 64,328/50.)

COPY EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, of 18th November 1850.

Resolved— That we again apply to the Commissioners to have the new poor-house built on the site adjoining the house at Garuragh now occupied as a temporary poorhouse.

— No. 7. —

(No. 64,328/50.)

COPY LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Clerk of Tulla Union; dated 28d November 1850.

THE Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had under their consideration the resolution contained in minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union, on the 18th instant, again requesting the Commissioners to have the new workhouse built on land adjoining the house at Garuragh, which is now occupied as a temporary workhouse; and in reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that the arrangements for the erection of the workhouse on the site already selected on the recommendation of the Board of Guardians, are now too far advanced to permit of the change proposed without considerable inconvenience and probable loss.

— No. 8. —

(No. 67,358/50.)

COPY LETTER from Mr. Wilkinson to the Poor Law Commissioners; dated 5th December 1850.

In reply to your letter of the 2d instant, I beg to recommend that a loan of 6,000 *l.* is applied for on account of the erection of the Tulla Workhouse and purchase of site.

— No. 9. —

(No. 67,358/50.)

TULLA UNION.

COPY ORDER to Raise or Borrow Money.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the Tulla Union, and to all other Persons whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it appears to us, the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to be expedient for the due execution of the provisions of the Acts for the Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland, that a workhouse should be provided within the union of Tulla, for the reception, employment, classification, and relief of destitute poor persons therein:

And whereas we have determined to build such workhouse according to certain plans approved by us:

And whereas it has been estimated that the cost of erecting the said workhouse according to the plans aforesaid, together with the sum required for the purchase of certain land as a site for the said workhouse, will amount to the sum of 6,000 *l.* sterling, or thereabouts:

Now know ye, that in pursuance of the powers given to us by the said Acts, and for the purpose of enabling us to complete the purchase of, and to pay for the said land, and to defray the expense of building the said workhouse, we do hereby order and direct the guardians of the poor of the said union to assess, raise, and levy the said sum of 6,000 *l.* sterling, as a poor-rate, on the rateable hereditaments

hereditaments in or arising within the said union, or to borrow the said sum according to the provisions of the said Acts, and to charge the same, together with all interest that may accrue thereon, on the future poor rates of the said union; and we do hereby authorise the said guardians to borrow the said sum, and to charge the said rates accordingly.

And we do further order and direct the said guardians, out of the poor rates and at the common charge of the several electoral divisions of the said union, at all times to uphold and maintain the said workhouse in good and substantial repair.

Sealed with our seal, this 9th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1850.

(signed) *A. Power.*
(countersigned) *W. Stanley, Secretary.*

— No. 10. —

(No. 3,935/51.)

COPY LETTER from Clerk of Union to the Poor Law Commissioners;
dated 21st January 1851.

WITH reference to your letter of the 4th January, No. 72,208/50, I beg to inform you that I have forwarded to Messrs. Barnes, Winter & Bernard, solicitors to the Public Works Loan Board, the deed of charge, duly executed, securing the loan of 6,000*l.* on the rates of the union, for the purpose of building a workhouse, &c. &c.

— No. 11. —

(No. 4,130/51.)

COPY REPORT from Mr. *Wilkinson* to the Poor Law Commissioners;
dated 22d January 1851.

I BEG to recommend the appointment of Mr. John Fitzgerald as clerk of works, to superintend the erection of the Tulla Union Workhouse, at a salary of two guineas per week, to commence from the period of the contractor's operations on the site of the intended building.

— No. 12. —

(No. 5,373/51.)

COPY REPORT from Mr. *Wilkinson* to the Commissioners;
dated 29th January 1851.

I AM to inquire if the Tulla workhouse can now be proceeded with on the site by the contractor, or if it is practicable to ascertain the period when the work can be commenced. The contractor and clerk of works require to be communicated with, if convenient.

— No. 13. —

(No. 5,291/51.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 27th January 1851.

PROPOSED by Mr. Watson, "That we call upon the Commissioners to order the contractor to commence the building of the new workhouse for this union, without further delay, in consequence of the number of able-bodied persons who are now pressing upon the Board for admission to the workhouse."

— No. 14. —

(No. 5,231/51.)

COPY LETTER from the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians;
dated 1st February 1851.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union, on the 27th ultimo, containing a resolution calling upon the Commissioners to order the contractor to commence the building of the new workhouse without further delay; and in reply, I am to state that the building will be commenced as soon as possession can be obtained of the land.

The Commissioners have written twice to the agent of the property on the subject.

— No. 15. —

(No. 15,297/51.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 17th March 1851.

THE Board desire to call the attention of the Commissioners to the delay that has taken place in obtaining possession of the site for the new building, and as so many difficulties present themselves in regard to the piece of ground fixed upon, we beg to suggest to the Commissioners that another site should be chosen; and we should prefer one immediately adjoining the house at Garuragh, on land that is in the occupation of Captain O'Callaghan himself, and which the Board would prefer to that which had been previously selected. It is needless for the Board to enlarge upon the importance to the union of the building being commenced without delay.

— No. 16. —

(No. 23,870/51.)

TULLA UNION.

COPY LETTER from the Board of Guardians to the Commissioners;
dated Tulla, 25th April 1851.

I AM directed by the chairman of the above union to inform you, that he has settled with Mr. Enright (agent to Captain O'Callaghan, whom he met on the land) as to a site for the new workhouse, instead of the one originally fixed on; Mr. Enright requires 6s. per Irish acre more for the land now fixed on, and at the same number of years' purchase on the entire price as agreed upon for the other site. At the same time Mr. Enright stated that his consent must be subject to the approval of Mr. McGrath, and he doubted not but that if they both agreed, immediate possession would be given, as the land is in the possession of Captain O'Callaghan.

The chairman recommends an immediate communication to be made to Mr. McGrath, through Messrs. Geale & Dwyer.

The site above alluded to (should you have a map of the premises) is bounded on the south by the road from Tulla to Garuragh Cross, on the east by the road from the Cross to Garuragh House, on the west by the lake, and on the north by a row of trees running parallel to the southern boundary wall of the garden.

— No. 17. —

(No. 23,870/51.)

COPY LETTER from the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians;
dated 26th April 1851.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 25th
295. a 3 instant,

instant, in which you state that the Chairman of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union has settled with Mr. Enright, agent to Captain O'Callaghan, as to a site for the workhouse, instead of that originally fixed; and in reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they believe the arrangements are now too far advanced to admit of a change of site; and the Commissioners understand from their solicitors, that possession is now likely to be obtained of the site already fixed on without delay.

— No. 18. —

(No. 25,495/51.)

COPY MINUTES of the Guardians' Proceedings on the 1st May 1851.

THE Board assembled at three o'clock, p.m., pursuant to adjournment, to receive Mr. Briscoe and the Rev. Mr. Quinlivan, with his two nephews. Mr. Briscoe brought with him the deed by which the other parties were to renounce all claims to the land, and to the possession of the ground selected for the site of the new workhouse, as far as lay in the occupation of the two nephews. After a good deal of reluctance shown by one of the parties, the deed was at length signed, and each of them received five pounds as the consideration money. The two younger Quinlivans subsequently gave the possession to Mr. Briscoe in presence of the chairman and clerk of the union.

A man in possession of another (though a small) part of the ground, intimated to the chairman that he considered himself entitled to compensation if called upon to resign his holding.

The Commissioners will therefore be pleased to require that Captain O'Callaghan's agent should come to the spot, and see that possession is given of the other portion of ground not heretofore in the occupation of the Quinlivans.

— No. 19. —

(No. 42,586/51.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 28th July 1851.

It having been represented to this Board, by a person on whom we can place reliance, that the works now in progress at the permanent workhouse at Tulla are carried on in an unworkmanlike manner; that the stones are very bad, the mortar deficient in lime, the quoins overhanging, and the foundations imperfect, we request that the Commissioners will direct their architect to inspect the building immediately; and the guardians, having visited the building since writing the above, are of opinion that the report is true in every particular.

COPY of Mr. Wilkinson's Observations; dated 4th August 1851.

WORKS will be inspected this day.

— No. 20. —

(No. 47,767/51.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 26th August 1851.

THE Board have to express their surprise that the Commissioners have not made any observations to them in reference to their complaints made on the 28th July last, about the works in progress at the new workhouse, and that no check has been put upon the contractor in respect of it.

— No. 21. —

(No. 47,767/51.)

COPY LETTER from the Commissioners to the Guardians;
dated 30th August 1851.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union on the 29th instant, containing a resolution on the subject of their complaint about the works in progress at the new workhouse; and in reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that the guardians' resolutions on this subject have been referred to the architect.

— No. 22. —

(No. 47,767/51.)

COPY Mr. Wilkinson's Observations; dated 9th September 1851.

THERE have been two surveys made of the works in question since the guardians' statement of complaints. The works have been carefully examined, and there have been some causes for complaint on the too hasty execution of the work. The front range of building is to have the foundations reconstructed, the clerk of works having neglected to see to a proper construction of a part of the walling of this building. The clerk of works employed is a pupil of a highly respectable architect of Limerick, Mr. Paine, by whom he was strongly recommended. With regard to the guardians' statement, that no notice has been taken of their communication, I can only state that the matters complained of were immediately looked to and carefully examined into. The person, I believe, who originated the complaints was a discharged workman; and complaints of this kind often arise from a vindictive feeling.

P. S.—Under all circumstances, I think it advisable that the clerk of works should be changed to some other building, and another clerk of works be sent to Tulla; this I propose to do, and to report to the Commissioners so soon as it can be effected.

— No. 23. —

(No. 47,767/51.)

COPY REPORT from Architect's Assistant to the Commissioners;
dated 28th August 1851.

IN accordance with your instructions I inspected the Tulla new workhouse building, and with reference to the foundation wall (which I examined in several places) I have to state that offsets have been omitted to some portions of the walls. They are, however, generally of a sufficient depth, and carried up from the gravel (overlying the rock), and in some places from the rock. I do not think it is absolutely necessary to reconstruct the foundations, but at the same time I do not consider that they are very good, and as they are not in accordance with the specification and drawings, I think it is a matter for consideration whether all the foundations of the front range should not be taken up and reconstructed in accordance with the drawings, &c.; there can be no doubt but that the building will be much more secure if this be done.

One of the quoins of centre range is a little round (I could not ascertain satisfactorily that it overhung anything), and appears to me to have been so built. In some of the mortar joints there are slight cracks or threads, which I attribute to the very fine description of sand used for the mortar and the quantity of mortar obliged to be used, and also the rapidity with which the walls were got up, considering the nature of the materials.

From former reports you are aware of the nature of the materials, which are not at all favourable; the rubble stone being very rough and of irregular form, and the contractors were, I believe, prevented by the Court of Chancery from

using the quarry first opened, and considered better than the present one for making finer work, but as the walls are built to be plaster-dashed, the rough look of the surface will be of no consequence hereafter. Since I first visited the building there has been some improvement in many of the works which were then pointed out; the timber in roofing girders, frames, &c. is of good quality, and the workmanship fairly done. There is still more attention required to the masonry (from the unfavourable nature of the stone) and what now remains to be done should not be built so rapidly. As a better description of sand can now be got in some of the rivers, I think you should insist on the contractors providing it for all the masonry that now remains to be done (including the yard walls), and further plaster-dashing which he has now commenced, and also that a larger supply of rubble stone should be always at the works.

— No. 24. —

(No. 47,767/51.)

COPY LETTER from the Commissioners to the Guardians; dated
13th September 1851.

WITH reference to the resolution contained in minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tella Union, on the 26th ultimo, relative to the complaint made by the Board, in their Resolution of the 28th July last, as to the works now in progress at the new workhouse, I am directed by the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to state that they have been in communication with their architect on the subject, and they are informed by him that since the first complaint of the guardians was made, two surveys have been made of the works, and the front range of building is to have the foundations reconstructed.

— No. 25. —

(No. 50,518/51.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 8th September 1851.

A REPORT having been made to this Board that an insult had been offered by Mr. Fitzgerald, the clerk of works at the new workhouse, at present in the employment of the Commissioners, to Mr. Watson, a guardian of this union, for expressions used by him at this Board, in reference to the works under Mr. Fitzgerald's inspection, this Board feel that an insult to a member of this Board is an insult to the whole body; and they request that the Commissioners will make inquiry into the circumstances, and act as they may think advisable.

— No. 26. —

(No. 50,518/51.)

COPY Mr. *Wickham's* Observations; dated 11th September 1851.

THIS appears a very proper subject for inquiry; the clerk of works has not performed his duty satisfactorily. I would beg to suggest that a communication is made to the Inspector, to request him to inquire, at the earliest opportunity, into the facts of the case, and to report to the Commissioners, in order that whatever course the Commissioners may think proper to take may be speedily decided.

— No. 27. —

(No. 51,690/51.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 15th September 1851.

IN reference to the Commissioners' letter of the 13th instant, No. 47,77/561, relative to the works now in progress at the new workhouse, the Board are under the impression that there is a considerable portion of the work not alluded to in the Commissioners' letter, which is in an imperfect state, and which may form a subject for future investigation.

— No. 28. —

(No. 51,690/51.)

COPY of a LETTER from the Commissioners to the Clerk;
dated 20th September 1851.

THE Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union, on the 15th instant, in which it is stated that the Board are under the impression that there is a considerable portion of the works now in progress at the new workhouse which is in an imperfect state; and in reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they observe that no specific portion of the work is pointed out, to which they could direct the particular attention of their architect. If a more detailed statement should be made on the subject they will communicate further with Mr. Wilkinson.

— No. 29. —

(No. 53,004/51.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 22d September 1851.

In relation to the letter of the Commissioners, No. 51,690, the Board refer to their minutes of the 29th July last, in which the particulars objected to were pointed out. In addition to the objections then made, the Board complained that they received no intimation of the mission of persons sent from the architect's department in Dublin, and consequently had no opportunity of attending to witness the inspection, or to point out the defects of the building; they object, further, that the inspecting architect (Mr. Fitzgerald) permitted the walls to be plastered over before the mason-work had been inspected, whereby the means of proving the badness of the masonry, of the stones, and of the mortar, was rendered difficult; the circumstances of the external plastering of the walls having been done before the building had been slated is so unusual, as to prove it having been done for a purpose; the guardians have also a suspicion that timber, which had been rejected by Mr. Fitzgerald, has been surreptitiously worked into the building, and painted over to prevent detection.

— No. 30. —

(No. 53,004/51.)

COPY of the Commissioners' Letter to the Guardians;
dated 4th October 1851.

WITH reference to the resolution contained in minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union, on the 22d ultimo, relative to the defects in the new workhouse in course of erection, I am directed by the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to state that they have drawn the attention of their architect to the subject.

— No. 31. —

(No. 51,692/51.)

COPY LETTER from the Commissioners to the Clerk;
dated 28d September 1851.

WITH reference to the resolution contained in minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union, on the 8th instant, relating to the conduct of Mr. Fitzgerald, the clerk of works employed at the new workhouse, I am directed by the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians, that they have communicated to their architect their opinion that Mr. Fitzgerald's services should be dispensed with; and Mr. Wilkinson has been requested to recommend another competent person for the office of clerk of works.

— No. 32. —

(No. 56,185/51.)

COPY OF REPORT from Mr. *Wilkinson*, addressed to the Commissioners ;
dated the 10th of October 1851.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 4th instant, enclosing a copy of a resolution of the Board of Guardians of the Tulla Union, with respect to the erection of the poorhouse.

I have to state that the works have received very particular attention, and that Mr. Sweeney, the clerk of works, is a person of much experience and trustworthiness, and instructions have been given to him on several matters. The dashing, the execution of which the guardians complain of being done at this season, ought not to have been done, since the roof was not sufficiently advanced to admit of its being properly done, or without the risk of its being required to be done again hereafter, more or less, which the contractor will be required to do if necessary ; the contract did not allow of its execution later than September, and had the slating of roof been all finished the contractor would have been justified in doing it, but it would have been proper for him to have left it till the spring, since the roof and slating could not be finished till the month of October, when no dashing is allowed by the contract to be done.

The buildings that are dashed are the walls of dining hall, and the two central buildings.

The infirmary has not yet been dashed, and the walls of the front main buildings are only level with the ground.

The walling is rough, the stones being of a very rough description, but the walls being dashed they were not required to be smooth-pointed, as the walls of the houses of the adjoining unions, which latter are not plaster-dashed ; the walls of the adjoining poorhouses, owing to not being dashed, as is customary in the country, were often complained of as being badly built, because they were here and there damp for a year or two after their execution, and hence the cause of the new poorhouses being dashed and plastered.

The clerk of works, Mr. Sweeney, will always be ready to give close attention to any matters the guardians require him to look to. I was over the works on Friday last ; had I been aware of the wish of the guardians to see me at the works I should have apprised them.

— No. 33. —

(No. 56,185/51.)

COPY LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Clerk of Tulla Union ;
dated 20th October 1851.

ADVISING to the resolution contained in minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union, on the 22d ultimo, relative to defects in the new workhouse in course of erection, I am directed by the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians, that they have received a report from their architect on the subject, in which he states that the works have received very particular attention from Mr. Sweeney, the present clerk of works, and that instructions have been given to him on several matters connected with the building.

With regard to the dashing of the walls, of the execution of which the guardians complain, Mr. Wilkinson states it should not have been done, since the roof was not sufficiently advanced to allow of the work being properly executed, or without the risk of its being necessary to repeat the operation, which, however, the contractor will be required to do, if necessary. Mr. Wilkinson observes that the walling is rough, owing to the stones being of a rough description ; but having been dashed, it is not necessary that they should
be

be smooth-pointed, in like manner as in the workhouses of adjoining unions, in which the walls have not been plaster-dashed.

The clerk of works will always be in readiness to give close attention to any matters the guardians may require him to look to.

— No. 34. —

(No. 59,567/51.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 27th October 1851.

ON the Commissioners' letter respecting the new building, we have to observe that the objections formerly made referred to the works executed under Mr. Fitzgerald's superintendence; and we still continue to think that the walls have been so badly built that they are not fit for a permanent building: the object of covering them with plaster prematurely, we consider to have been to conceal the defective mason-work. We formerly called the Commissioners' attention to the want of a bakery and meal store; and in addition to these deficiencies, we beg now to say that there is no laundry and no washhouse provided for. All these additions we consider indispensably necessary, and request that they may be provided for.

— No. 35. —

(No. 59,567/51.)

COPY OBSERVATIONS of Mr. WILKINSON; dated 15th November 1851.

THERE is no bakehouse building in the plans; there is a washhouse and also a laundry provided in the plan. The Commissioners have already informed the guardians what will meet Mr. Briscoe's suggestions as to the alleged defects.

— No. 36. —

(No. 59,567/51.)

COPY OBSERVATIONS of Mr. WILKINSON; dated 22d November 1851.

ABOUT 500 l. appears necessary on account of the site, and I doubt if the loan will allow an additional building for a bakery being provided. I could not now state that it will do so.

— No. 37. —

(No. 59,567/51.)

COPY LETTER from the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians; dated 27th November 1851.

THE Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had before them the resolution contained in minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union, on the 27th ultimo, relative to the workhouse now in course of erection; and in reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they have drawn the attention of the architect to the resolution.

A washhouse and laundry are provided for in the plan, but no provision has been made for a bakehouse, and the Commissioners are not certain that the loan which has been obtained for providing the workhouse will be sufficient to allow of an additional building for a bakery.

— No. 38. —

(No. 60,986/51.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 3d November 1851.

THE Board wish to be furnished with copies of the reports made by the inspecting architects sent down to examine the new workhouse now in course of erection, previous to the appointment of the present clerk of works.

— No. 39. —

(No. 60,986/51.)

COPY LETTER from the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians;
dated 8th November 1851.

THE Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had before them the resolution of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union on the 3d instant; requesting to be furnished with copies of the reports made by the inspecting architects sent down to examine the new workhouse now in course of erection, and in reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they cannot furnish copies of the correspondence which passes between their architect and his assistants on the subject of the works which are in progress under his superintendence. Any particulars relating to the works now in progress which the guardians may consider defective will be referred to Mr. Wilkinson, if forwarded to the Commissioners for that purpose.

— No. 40. —

(No. 10,496/52.)

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes; dated 16th February 1852.

WE again direct the attention of the Commissioners to the necessity of erecting at the permanent workhouse two ovens and a drying closet, also stables and boundary walls.

— No. 41. —

(No. 10,496/52.)

COPY OBSERVATIONS of Mr. *Williams*, Architect, on foregoing Resolution;
dated 1st March 1852.

THE loan did not include provision for a boundary wall.

The Commissioners have not thought it right to apply for a loan for a wall in other unions. The guardians want a bakehouse, drying-room, and stables. It cannot yet be ascertained if any part of the loan will be available for works of this kind.

The loan was kept low, and all that it was considered possible to omit from the plans was omitted to keep the cost as low as practicable.

— No. 42. —

(No. 10,496/52.)

COPY LETTER from the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians;
dated 4th March 1852.

THE Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tulla Union on the 16th ultimo, containing a resolution requesting the Commissioners' attention to the necessity of erecting, at the permanent workhouse, two ovens and a drying-closet, also stables, and a boundary wall; and in reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that no provision was made in the workhouse loan for these works; but the Commissioners are prepared to sanction them, if the guardians can make provision for the cost, by loan from the treasurer or otherwise.

— No. 43. —

(No. 14,054/52.)

EXTRACTS from Guardians' Minutes; dated 1st March 1852.

REFERRING to our minutes of the 16th February last, on the subject of additions to our new workhouse, we beg to confirm those observations, and to state further, that on a conference with the present clerk of the works, it appears to us desirable that whatever additions are made should be placed in the situations marked on two slips of paper, which the clerk of the works has obligingly drawn out. It strikes us that by removing the laundry, also the fuel-store, out of the range of the main buildings, we shall effect our insurance on more reasonable terms, and shall require more accommodation for work-rooms. The guardians would, however, wish to have the estimates before them of those additional works before they are finally determined upon, and to know whether the sums originally granted will cover the expense of everything intended.

The Board have more than once objected to the manner in which the work, up to a certain time, has been executed, as well as the materials used.

The Board have determined to request of Sir Lucius O'Brien to apply, in his place in Parliament, for copies of correspondence between the Tulla Board of Guardians and the Poor Law Commissioners, and copies of reports from the architect and his assistants to the Commissioners, in reference to the new workhouse now in course of erection at Tulla, the Commissioners having refused the latter on the guardians' application.

— No. 44. —

(No. 14,054/52.)

COPY OBSERVATIONS of Mr. WILLIAMS; dated 10th March 1852.

I ATTENDED the Board of Guardians on the 16th ultimo; I begged the favour of the Board of Guardians, or any member thereof, accompanying me over the building to inspect the works. I complained to them that a statement appeared in a public paper of the county, alleging that I was a relation of the contractor's, and also insinuating that the assistant architect was not to be relied on, because in such a place as Tulla, where there is only one wretched public room to take shelter in, the contractor and assistant architect were getting some refreshment in the same place on the occasion of the contractor going to Tulla to meet the assistant architect. This was denied by the guardians, but at last admitted by one of the guardians that he had heard it stated. Some complaint of work done under Mr. Fitzgerald's superintendence (the first clerk of works) was made by one of the guardians; the one, I believe, that Mr. Fitzgerald had a quarrel with. I asked the guardians to direct my attention to any part; I heard it stated that there was originally some crack that white-wash had since covered; but I could get no one to go to the building.

— No. 45. —

(No. 16,768/52.)

COPY LETTER from Mr. WILLIAMS, Architect, to the Commissioners; dated 11th March 1852.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of resolutions of the Board of Guardians of the Tulla Union, referred to me by your Board, with regard to certain proposed additions to the building, and also a resolution arising out of some complaint made at one period respecting the works at the poorhouse.

I have to state, that on the 16th ultimo, I attended a meeting of the guardians,

dians, when a desire was expressed to have some bakehouse buildings, and a building for a drying apparatus for clothes erected. I then stated that the loan was not intended, or estimated to accomplish more than the building was planned for, and that your Board endeavoured to limit the outlay for the building as much as possible; that if any balance of the estimate was found to be available, I thought your Board would be willing to apply it according to the guardians' wishes for the above purpose, but it was not usual for a large building to be erected below an estimate so as to leave any important balance, but I believe that there will be found a balance in favour of the union after paying for the contract, extras in fixtures, ironmongery, clerk of works, and site; but this cannot yet be ascertained.

With regard to the execution of the building, I begged the favour of the guardians accompanying me to inspect the wall, or to direct my attention to anything they might have to complain of. I could not succeed in prevailing on any one to accompany me, but was verbally informed that the guardians were satisfied with all that had been done of late, but not what was done under the first clerk of works, Mr. Fitzgerald. It was alleged that there was some crack in a wall, and something out of perpendicular, but I was unable to learn where, and was told that whitewash had since hid the crack, and that the plaster-dashing had made the wall crack straight.

I took the opportunity of complaining to the guardians that one of the county papers contained a statement as arising out of what some time since passed in the board-room, to the effect that I was a relation of the contractor, and also that an assistant architect who met the contractor by appointment according to instructions, took refreshment at the same time in the same room with the contractor. In Tulla, one wretched little public room appears to be all the accommodation available for any one, and I complained that such unfair observations, which I had never met with from any other Board, should be made, and the thankless duty of working for a Board who would descend to such statements; but it was denied by the guardians, though a Mr. Watson, with whom Mr. Fitzgerald had the quarrel, admitted that he had heard it asserted in the board-room.

The materials used in the Tulla poorhouse are very rough, the sand and stone being both of them more unfavourable for building operations than most other places, but I believe the building to be a good sound structure, and that good value will be obtained; and that the masonry first executed under Mr. Fitzgerald differs very little, if any, on the whole, from that since done, and with which the guardians express themselves satisfied; and I cannot therefore but believe that the complaint made by the guardians has arisen in a great measure from the ill-feeling, whether justly or otherwise, against Mr. Fitzgerald, arising out of his impudence, and I have heard, as regards some of the guardians, out of some trading transactions with some of them before his employment at Tulla, which circumstance I was not aware of, and only knew Mr. Fitzgerald through the strong recommendation of Mr. Paine, of Limerick, a highly respectable architect, whose pupil he originally was.

T U L L A U N I O N .

COPIES of Correspondence between the Board
of Guardians of Tully Union and the Poor Law
Commissioners of Ireland from the Arch-
deacon and his Assistant to the Commissioners, in
reference to the New Workhouse now in Con-
struction at Tully.

(*Sir Lucius O'Brien*.)

*Ordered by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
2 May 1835.*
